

Mensagem 4 (374 linhas)
From cdp!psu.edu!jcp149 Sat May 18 14:04:20 1996
XSender: jcp149@email.psu.edu
ContentTransferEncoding: quotedprintable
Date: Fri, 17 May 1996 21:57:11 0400
Subject: Tembe indians: attN; Ana Araujo Leitao/Steve Schwartzmann, Louann Dietz, Carlos Salinas/Linda Rabben, Kurt Coupe

INSTITUTO SOCIOAMBIENTAL
data 01 / 08 / 96
cod TED 0114

Dear Colleagues,

Here is a report synthesized from the information gathered from Muxi (Sergio) Tembe during his recent trip to the U.S. I will also send a second report detailing meetings during this trip as well as a translation of an article that details earlier history of land invasions in the Alto Rio Guama reserve. Thank you for all of your input and help surrounding this visit. =

=20
Please contact Muxi c/o=20
Associaçao dos Povos Indigenas da PreAmazonia
Att: Francisco Potiguara Tomaz Fiho
Av. Gov. Jose Malcher 1007, Apt. 1205
Bairro de Nazare
Belem, Para CEP 66.055260
Brazil
Tel. 55912413273
email c/o Denny Moore : Moore@marajo.secom.ufpa.br

I will be going to Brazil from May 25 through August 11 and can receive messages either through my email in the US or c/o Denny Moore's email given above.

Sincerely,

Campbell Plowden

Indian Land Grab in the Eastern Amazon

The Gurupi River in the eastern Amazon region of Brazil forms part of the border between the states of Par=E1 and Maranh=E3o. It also marks the boundary between the 290,000 hectare Alto Rio Guam=E1 and 500,000 hectare Alto Turia=E7u Indigenous Reserves which were established in the 1940s and later formally demarcated and registered in the early 1970s. In spite of this legal distinction, the river is an important resource which binds not separates the various indians who live near it. The Alto Rio Guam=E1 on the western side is occupied by almost 1000 Temb=E9, several hundred Ka'apor, and a few Munduruku and Timbira indian families. Ka'apor families predominate on the eastern side in the Alto Turia=E7u, but the area is also shared with numerous Temb=E9 and Guaj=E1 indians. The Temb=E9, Ka'apor, and Guaj=E1 are tribes of Tupi origin. Along with the Guajajara which live primarily in the nearby Car=FA Indigenous Reserve, all four tribes speak variations of the Tenetehara language. Temb=E9 and Ka'apor share hunting areas in the forest; sites of shifting cultivation often alternate from one side of the river to the other. There is some intermarriage between the

groups, and some joint participation in each other's important ceremonies such as the yearly Coming of Age festival.

On July 27, 1967, a highly respected Temb=É9 leader and her husband chief had a son in Aldeia Nova (New Village) in the Alto Rio Guam=E1 reserve. Following Temb=É9 custom of naming a child in the spirit of its father, the parents followed the aquatic theme and named their son Muxi shrimp of the river. When he was several months old, the agent from the Brazilian National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) followed a government tradition of giving all indian children an official Portuguese sounding name and registered the boy as S=E9rgio.=20 Whether known as Muxi by his fellow indians or S=E9rgio by most Brazilians, this twentyeight year Temb=É9 indian is one of the point people in a fight for control of the largest remaining area of intact forest in the eastern Amazon.

When Muxi was eight years old he vividly remembers a trip he made with his father, uncle and a small band of Temb=É9. They walked for three days on small paths through the forest from their village near the Gurupi River to the northern section of the reserve along the Guam=E1 River where another group of Temb=É9 villages was located.=20 They hunted along the way and slept in the forest at night. Muxi and the few other boys on the trip would collect turtles or catch whatever small game they could. While such journeys into the forest interior between the groups of communities were common for extended hunting trips and visiting relatives, they had begun to take on a new importance. Beginning around the time he was born, white people had begun to come into their territory with increasing frequency. The indians needed to monitor the forest and try to expel any encroachers they found. They stayed two days in the Guam=E1 area then turned around and walked three days back to the Gurupi.

Within a few years, however, such trips became increasingly dangerous and eventually impossible. In 1976 the indians suffered a major setback when the Mejer ranch was created inside the eastern border of the reserve north of the Piri=E1 River. While the Brazilian Constitution would presumably prohibit such an action inside an established indigenous territory, the deal received its first claim to legitimacy when a few illiterate Temb=É9 indians were convinced to place their thumbprints on agreement ceding 18,000 ha. of the reserve to this ranch. The arrangement was opposed by FUNAI's regional office in Bel=E9m, but its objections were overruled by FUNAI headquarters in Brasilia which even allowed the Polish national who owned the ranch to build several access roads through the reserve to it. While Mejer was supposed to prohibit other people from using these roads, they soon became conduits for a raft of new invasions by other ranchers and squatters clearing large areas of forest for pasture and farms. Some legal action was initiated to expel Mejer, but twenty years later the case has still not progressed past the desk of the federal prosecutor responsible for the state of Par=E1. Extricating Mejer from his estate will not be easy. His swimming pool and private plane are evidence of his wealth and influence. His hired gunmen are evidence of his

intention to resist forcible eviction by the indians or anyone else.

Temb=9 indians generally come of age when they are ten or eleven years old. For a girl this occurs after she has her first menstrual period. For a boy it occurs when he is ready to join in hunts for larger game animals like tapirs and wild pig. For both sexes, it often means that parents of eligible children consult with each other and find appropriate pairs of young men and women to marry. In Muxi's case, however, he resisted the initial choice of a mate recommended by his parents. FUNAI had provided one teacher for the communities along the Gurupi, and he wanted to attend it. He moved out of his parents house and moved into one that he built himself nearby. Along with some other children from his village, he walked two hours to the school in the FUNAI post village every morning and walked home the same distance every afternoon. Along the way, he and his comrades would hunt small game with their bows and arrows or catch turtles for the next meal.=20 He had grown up speaking Temb=9, but school gave him a chance to study Portuguese the language of the people whose world was steadily pushing in on his own. The school teacher stayed for three years then moved on. FUNAI didn't replace her, so Muxi finished his formal schooling at age 12 and decided it was time to get married. This time he chose a girl himself. He and his wife now have six children ranging from 10 months to 10 years; one other child died very young.

In recent years, the young men of the Temb=9 and Ka'apor tribe have had to leave their families for increasing amounts of time not just to hunt but to try and deal with the nonIndians that have entered their reserves. One time about 160 indians were patrolling the interior of the Alto Turia=E7u and encountered a barricaded settlement containing hundreds of invaders with a large number of gun barrels sticking out from between wooden slats. Muxi and a few others laid down their simple weapons and approached the barricade saying they just wished to speak. After a tense standoff, the group received them. The indian delegation informed the group that were on indian land and would need to leave. If they didn't, the indians would come back at night and kill them. This group left, but many others have followed.=20

The next wave of invasions of the reserve came from loggers. As mahogany and other valuable tropical hardwood trees in the surrounding forest are consumed by the hundreds of sawmills located in Paragominas and Imperatriz, indian lands have become the most accessible forests to exploit. One logging company Rosa Madereira once asked permission from the Temb=9 to build a road into the reserve to access the timber. In spite of the Temb=9's refusal, however, a FUNAI survey reported that both Rosa Madereira and the large Marajoara logging company have both taken timber illegally from the Alto Rio Guam=Ei reserve.

In just the past six years, marijuana growers have become prevalent along the Cora=E7i Paran=Ei River and interior of the southern section

of the Alto Rio Guam=E1 reserve. This region is now believed to supply some 80% of the market for marijuana in Par=E1's capital city of Bel=E9m. Although the Temb=E9 have no traditional or current use of this drug, they are often blamed for its production by people eager to see the indians lose control over all of their land. While the authorities did make one raid on a marijuana farm that led to the seizing of 40 kg., the activity is rarely challenged. The growers are well armed, apparently with the assistance of a local mayor who also provides political cover in return for a healthy share of the profits from the drug trafficking operation. One of the growers living inside the reserve is so confident of his immunity from legal action that he has sent three signed death threats to Muxi in the last six months. Muxi and three other indian leaders have received additional death threats both inside and outside the reserve.

The frustration of the indians with the total nonfunctionality of the Brazilian legal system is enormous. Based on complaints raised by the federal prosecutor acting in the state of Maranh=E3o, a federal judge in that state's capital city S=E3o Luis issued court orders three times in 1992, 1993, and 1995 calling on the federal police to expel the invaders from the Alto Turia=E7u reserve. Each time the regional chief refused to carry out the orders. This year the indians went to Brasilia and presented the head of the federal police with copies of these court orders demanding an explanation for their lack of action. This head laughed off the complaint saying that the judge was crazy.

Beyond direct violence against the indians, the invasions have imposed serious hardships on the health of the Temb=E9 and Ka'apor.=20 Many decades ago, thousands of indians of these groups died when they were exposed to measles brought into the area by white people.=20 Periodic vaccinations have reduced this threat, but diarrhea and malaria are now very serious health problems in the region. Thirty young Temb=E9 in the Gurupi area died most from malaria. The Temb=E9 still have a strong traditional use of forest medicines, but no native cures are available for the potent forms of the malarial parasite that didn't exist in the region twenty years ago. Last year in the height of the outbreak, FUNAI sent in one doctor and one nurse for a month, but there is no regularly staffed health clinic in either reserve and neither state nor federal health agency has provided antimalarial medications. The swift rapids that somewhat protected the Gurupi indians from the outside before roads came in now form a formidable barrier for indians to quickly secure medical care. Malaria is worst in the summer when the river level is low, and this is the time when it takes the community launch the longest to reach the nearest point of land transportation usually one and a half to two days. It then takes another six hours by bus or car to reach an authorized FUNAI hospital in Bel=E9m. Not surprisingly, several children died on the boat last year before they ever got there.

The other consequence of the reserve invasions is the loss of productive forest which directly affects the livelihood of the

indians in various ways. The situation is most severe for the Temb=É9 living in communities at the north end of the Alto Rio Guam=E1 reserve where invasions have taken over all but a strip of forest along the river. These villages are still able to farm, but the amount and quality of forest left makes hunting a futile endeavor and the quantity of forest products left for either subsistence consumption or for sale is minimal. Nonindians have also overfished and contaminated the river. The local economy of these villages is, therefore, very precarious. With the sale of a small amount of fari=Fiha, they must purchase meat and other supplies from town because they have been denied their traditional means of self sufficiency. The Temb=É9 and Ka'apor living near the Gurupi still have access to a sizeable area of forest in which to hunt and rivers to fish, but the destruction of forest by some invaders and illegal harvest of trees, game, and other marketable forest products like vines is steadily eroding the natural resource base of these indians as well.

The invasion of these indian territories is not ad hoc process undertaken by lone individuals. At the local level they are stimulated by local mayors and city council members who vigorously promote the availability of indian land near their districts around the time of elections. Some people like the mayor of the nearby town of Nova Esperan=E7a who himself lives less than two kilometers from the reserve border are particularly active in this cause. As mentioned earlier, the indians believe he provides political cover for loggers and arms for marijuana growers operating inside the reserve. =20

At the national level, Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso initially showed some promise of overseeing a federal policy that would support indigenous land rights by appointing Marcio Sentilli, the director of one of Brazil's strongest indian advocacy organizations, to head the government indian agency FUNAI.=20 In January, 1996, however, Cardoso showed his bottom line stance on indian affairs by issuing Decree 1775 which opened up a three month period in which nonindians could make claims on land that was due to be included in indian reserves. While the government claimed this decree was designed to resolve many land conflicts between indians and nonindians, it has horribly scrambled the process of legalizing the boundaries of hundreds of indian reserves by generating more than one thousand counterclaims which must be processed. But beyond its effect on reserves which have not yet been fully demarcated and registered, it has stimulated new waves of invasions in reserves like the Alto Rio Guam=E1 and Alto Turia=E7u which have been fully legalized for more than twenty years.

The federal decree has also aggravated the problem of invasion by emboldening state governments to encourage the process. While they have no legal authority to do so, the Governors of Par=E1 and Maranh=E3o have both made statements to the press this year that the majority of the Alto Rio Guam=E1 and Alto Turia=E7u reserves are "liberated." In other words they will not oppose any colonist, logger, or rancher who enters one of these reserves to remove its

resources or stake a claim. This activity even seems well organized in the Alto Turia=E7u reserve. Colonists who enter the reserve are employed to help fill some six trucks bringing timber out of the area every day.=20

While Temb=E9 and Ka'apor patrols in their territory have sometimes persuaded a few colonists to move elsewhere, the magnitude of the number of people and weaponry of the recent invasions make such efforts dangerous and futile. In March of this year they requested that FUNAI President Sentilli visit them in their reserve to explain what FUNAI was going to do about the latest round of invasions catalyzed by the decree. Sentilli chose not to go in person but sent a representative from his staff in Brasilia along with four other FUNAI employees from the Bel=E9m and S=E3o Luis regional offices. When this delegation arrived, however, it had no plan to offer. The Temb=E9, Ka'apor and leaders of several other tribes present in the village decided to take some action to raise the profile of their concerns. They took charge of the airplane the delegation arrived in and informed them they were not to leave the reserve. After several tense days of negotiation Sentilli agreed to send in four planes to bring out the FUNAI staff as well as fifteen indian leaders to meet with him in Bel=E9m. At the conclusion of this long meeting, Sentilli made several promises concerning his intentions to deal with the reserve invaders.

The optimism that the indians experienced at the conclusion of this meeting, however, was short lived. In addition to being unsupported by his superiors and betrayed by the issuance of the decree, Sentilli had enemies within FUNAI and even several indian communities. He had tried to deal with corrupt officials on the inside and do away with financial arrangements that were disproportionately benefiting a few tribes. For his efforts he was once kidnapped from his office in Brasilia and threatened by a group that stood to lose their preferential treatment if his house cleaning succeeded. By March, it became apparent that too many cards were stacked against him. Sentilli resigned and was quickly replaced by J=FAlio Gaiger a lawyer who had assisted in drafting the infamous decree. As Sentilli left, his promises to the Temb=E9 and Ka'apor left with him. When Muxi and a group of indians met Gaiger in Brasilia in April, Gaiger stated that he supported the indians. He also made it clear that he was not going to take any action to remove the invaders or try to get the federal police to do so. Knowing very well that the invaders are very well armed, it was not clear how he expected the indians to remove the invaders without official assistance. The cynical interpretation is that he hoped the indians would actually try to use violence which would certainly generate a massive and fatal reprisal against them.

The Temb=E9 and Ka'apor are knowingly facing an uphill battle, but they are intent to keep their culture strong and seek ways to regain control of their land. They have formed an association to act as an organizing committee for both advocacy work on the land rights concerns and as a vehicle for tangibly addressing other important issues affecting their communities. On the land rights

LEITURA DAS MENSAGENS RECEBIDAS ALTERNEX EM 20 DE MAIO DE 1996 PAG 17

front, the next step is to generate broader public awareness and support for their cause. They are networking within Brazil, and Muxi's trip to the U.S. in late April was the first effort to inform concerned people outside of the region about the harsh problems they are facing. Part of the strategy will probably involve trying to organize a proper legal challenge to the land invasions first within Brazil and later if necessary at the international level. The other approach will be to generate as much public pressure on the Brazilian authorities to act because it is both their legal and moral duty to do so. =20

Working in cooperation with various governmental and non governmental groups, the association is also seeking funding for three different types of community development projects in the areas of health, education, and management of natural resources.=20

The goal of the health project is to finance the training of some native medical staff, develop the capacity to diagnose common life threatening diseases such as diarrhea and malaria, and secure an adequate supply of medicines to treat these and other significant health conditions inside the reserve. The goal of the education project is to enlist the support of a linguist to teach indians in the reserve how to read and write their native Tenetehara language.=20

In the case of Temb=E9 indians in the northern part of the Alto Rio Guam=E1 reserve, the goal is also to teach these relatives how to speak their native tongue which has been lost through many years of isolation from the tribe's cultural stronghold near the Gurupi.=20

The goal of the natural resource management project is to identify one or more nontimber forest products which can be harvested and or cultivated and sold to improve the options for the community to generate income to purchase equipment and supplies needed by everyone. At the top of this list is a fast boat which can carry people from the village to a point of land transportation in six hours instead of thirtysix. This time saving could make the difference between saving a child's life and not. Additional income could also buy medicines needed to treat outside diseases and hire teachers.

The Temb=E9 and Ka'apor are reaching out and are looking for people who are willing to shake their hand in partnership.

Mensagem 1 (87 linhas)

From moore@marajo.ufpa.br Fri May 31 13:42:10 1996

Date: Fri, 31 May 1996 12:29:00 -0300 (GMT-0300)

From: Dennis Albert Moore <moore@marajo.ufpa.br>

To: socioamb@ax.apc.org, csalinas@igc.apc.org, amazoncoal@igc.apc.org,
amanakaa96@aol.com, canopy@cdp.igc.apc.org,
wbalee@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu, haleymit@leland.stanford.edu

Subject: attn: ana araujo leitao, carlos /linda rabben, melina silverson,
chris
tine halvorsen, kurt coupe, bill, haley

dear friends,

here is a quick report on serious situation with tembe. please forward to rainforest action network and any other email networks you believe appropriate. please act on this as quickly as possible.

many thanks

80 indians held hostage by colonists
inside indian reserve in the eastern
brazilian amazon

about 80 indians from the tembe, kaapor and timbira tribes were taken hostage along with three employees of the brazilian indian agency funai on may 29 after the indians entered a town illegally situated inside the alto rio guama indian reserve in the eastern part of para state in the brazilian amazon. the indians originally went to the area to burn a batch of 400 cubic meters of wood which had been illegally cut in the reserve. the brazilian natural resource agency ibama, however, had already released three trucks carrying the wood back to the loggers and were going to release the wood as well. the indians sent a mission up to this site of the reserve and took various actions directed at bridges providing access for logging trucks to the interior of the reserve as well as structures, fields, and animals of colonist squatters near the town of vila livramento in the municipality of garrafao do norte. the indians were surrounded by hundreds of squatters forcing the indians to lay down their bows and arrows and rifles. the squatters then burned several vehicles used by the indians to enter the area. one of the indian hostages is muxi (sergio) tembe; he visited the united states in april to inform many organizations about the grave situation with land invasions inside the alto rio guama and alto turiaçu indigenous reserves.

in spite of their illegal presence, the squatters are incredibly appealing to almir gabriel, the governor of the state of para, to take legal action against the indians for destruction of their property. local mayors are already supporting demands of the colonists. gabriel and funai officials are negotiating for the release of the indians and the funai

agents, but the situation can not be fully resolved until the illegal occupants are removed from the reserve and laws prohibiting logging and other activities inside it are enforced. In contrast to their responsibility to respect these laws, local mayors and the governor have actively encouraged non-indians to enter the reserve to take timber and establish farms and ranches.

concerned individuals and groups should call on the president of funai and the governor of the state of para to take action to immediately free the hostages and remove non-indians illegally living inside the reserve. access roads and bridges should be dismantled and agents stationed at key points to prevent further incursions.

more details of these events can be found in the may 30 and may 31 editions of the belem newspapers o liberal and diario do para.

send faxes to:

julio gaiger, president
funai (national indian foundation)
55-61-226-8782

almir gabriel, governador
estado do para
55-91-248-1575

Mensagem 9 (100 linhas)

From moore@marajo.ufpa.br Sat Jun 1 10:56:24 1996

Date: Sat, 1 Jun 1996 10:45:29 0300 (GMT0300)

From: Dennis Albert Moore <moore@marajo.ufpa.br>

To: wbalee@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu, socioamb@ax.apc.org,
csalinas@igc.apc.org,

amazoncoal@igc.apc.org, canopy@cdp.igc.apc.org, amanakaa96@aol.com,

haleymit@leland.stanford.edu, jcpi49@psu.edu, lrabben@igc.apc.org

Subject: attn: Bill B, Ana Araujo Leitao, Carlos, Melina, Kurt Coupe,
Christine

H., Haley, Yuri, Linda

Here is update on Tembe situation in Para. Will have more to report
after have opportunity to speak with FUNAI agent recently released.

INDIAN HOSTAGES RELEASES; THREAT TO
RESERVE REMAINS

(Information compiled from the June 1, 1996 editions of
the Belem newspapers O Liberal and Diario do Para)

After being held for two days as hostages inside in the Alto
Rio Guama Indian Reserve some 77 Tembe, Kaapor, and
Timbira indians along with three employees of the Brazilian
indian agency FUNAI were released by illegal squatters in
the town of Vila Livramento (municipality of Garrafao do
Norte) in the eastern Amazon state of Para. The release
occured on Friday, May 31, following negotiations between
FUNAI, the Brazilian Natural Resource agency IBAMA,
the Public Ministry, and Fetagri. There will be a followup
meeting on June 5 in Belem with representatives of
FUNAI, IBAMA, and the federal land agency INCRA to
try to definitively resolve the conflict between the indians
and the squatters which has been going on for more than 20
years. The squatters are demanding title to the area they
occupy which is inside the Tembe indian reserve. The
indians promised they would not return to Vila Livramento
and try to take action directly against the colonists. Indian
leader Muxi (Sergio) Tembe stated, however, that if a
logger was apprehended again inside the reserve the indians
would hold them for some time.

The recent incident was sparked several weeks ago when
IBAMA apprehended three trucks of logs that had been
illegally cut inside the reserve. The indians revolted,
however, when IBAMA quickly released the trucks and had
authorized the release of the logs to the loggers. the indians
sent a mission up to the area to burn some 150 cubic meters
of these logs before they were given to the loggers and in
the process destroyed other materials related to the colonist
squatters. FUNAI indicated it will repay the squatters for
the damage and losses caused by the indians. After being
surrounded by the colonists the indians lay down their
bows, arrows, and other weapons. The colonists burned
two vehicles that brought the indians to the area and have

not returned any of the items taken from the indians. Both indians and FUNAI agents were beaten by the colonists in the early stages of the incident and were constantly harassed with death threats throughout the time they were held. Federal, military and civil police were at the site to try to protect the hostages from further violence. The indians have now returned to their villages to decide what action to take next.

One of the key figures behind the colonist activities is apparently Humberto Alencar known in the area as Paraiba. He has provided support for the establishment of many squatter farms in the area. During the hostage situation he apparently encouraged the burning of the FUNAI vehicles and made access for reporters to the indians being held hostage almost impossible.

Given the history of past government actions and inaction in the region, there will be tremendous pressure for the government to give in to the demands of the squatters and grant them title to land inside the reserve. The appropriate solution, however, is for the government to find other land for the colonists outside the reserve. Legalizing the invasion of a fully demarcated indian reserve would be a tremendous setback not only for the Tembe and other indians in the area but would show that the government has no willingness to enforce laws which guarantee land rights for indians in the entire country.

Concerned people are requested to send messages to the President of FUNAI urging him to maintain the integrity of the current Alto Rio Guama reserve boundaries and not give away indian land by permitting the legalization of titles to the squatters.

Send faxes to:
 Julio Gaiger, President
 FUNAI (National Indian Foundation)
 55612268782

Messages can also be so be sent to Brazilian Embassies and Consulates.

Mensagem 7 (107 linhas)

From cdplamazoncoal Wed Jun 5 20:35:08 1996
 XOldSender: <amazoncoal@pop.igc.apc.org>
 From: "Melina Selverston and Debra Delavan" <amazoncoal@igc.apc.org>
 Organization: Amazon Coalition
 Date: Wed, 5 Jun 1996 15:54:07 +0000
 Subject: Update on Tembe situation in Brazil
 Replyto: amazoncoal@igc.apc.org
 Priority: normal
 Sender: amazoncoal@ppp615.igc.org

Forwarded Message Follows

Date: Tue, 4 Jun 1996 20:29:12 0300 (GMT0300)
 From: Dennis Albert Moore <moore@marajo.secom.ufpa.br>

Update on Tembe situation

>From 9 AM until 12 Noon today there was a meeting held at the Procuraderia Geral building in Belem. The meeting included representatives of the Public Ministry, Ministry of Justice, FUNAI, INCRA, union of rural workers, Tembe and other indians.

All groups gave an opening statement laying out their basic position. It was encouraging to hear the Ministry of Justice representative state very clearly that the legal status of the Alto Rio Guama reserve is absolutely clear. The 1775 decree has no relevance to it from a legal standpoint. There could therefore be no discussion of reducing the size of the reserve to accomodate other interests. Also encouraging was the statement by the INCRA representative that they have identified at least one area of 10,000 hectares which could be made available to the settlers currently occupying land inside the indian reserve. It was also clear that the situation is very complex since the small farmers are also linked in various ways to loggers and ranchers. Marijuana traffickers also figure into the picture. The group today decided that a preexisting commission which has clearly not been functioning very well will be relaunched with representation from key government agencies, two representatives from the colonist communities and two representatives from the indian communities. While this commission will need to be formally constituted in some way, there will be some sort of initial meeting tomorrow. Many such commissions have clearly come and gone in the past so the government has for the timebeing once again successfully maneuvered to diffuse the very tense situation without taking any concrete action or decision to resolve it. It was widely acknowledged, however, that this recent incident was catalyzed by the immediate release of logging trucks and many logs by IBAMA. No one seemed to know exactly who in IBAMA had issued this authorization and no IBAMA representative was present today to explain it. Hopefully they will choose to participate in the commission since they play an essential role in enforcement of laws prohibiting logging outside of authorized areas.

One possible outcome of these recent events is that the Chief of the FUNAI Post at Caninde in the Gurupi River region could lose his job. He is being widely blamed by the colonists and others for instigating the indians to take these "crazy" actions even though no one seems to dispute

that the Indians had every right to be upset with the situation. This FUNAI agent Francisco (Chico) Potiguara has been a very courageous defender of Indian rights and has received many abuses and death threats along with the Indian leaders.

At this point it is clear that some attention should be directed at IBAMA to demand an explanation for why they released the trucks and logs that had at first been seized and secondly to call for strict enforcement of the laws that prohibit logging in Indian land.

FUNAI should perhaps receive some additional pressure to keep them on the case and to not fire an agent who has proven to be a tough defender.

Hopefully more details and a clearer strategy will emerge after tomorrow's meetings in the commission and with the Indians. It is important to keep in mind that today's meeting revolved around the colonist-Indian conflict but while large ranchers and loggers were frequently mentioned, there was little discussion of how these problems can be solved. The Indian leaders and their few vocal supporters therefore are still in an extremely vulnerable position. The more notice that this case receives from the outside, the more that people inclined to hire a gunman to take out a leader or two will think twice.

Mensagem 8 (128 linhas)

From cdp!amazoncoal Wed Jun 5 20:35:09 1996
 XOldSender: <amazoncoal@pop.igc.apc.org>
 From: "Melina Selverston and Debra Delavan" <amazoncoal@igc.apc.org>
 Organization: Amazon Coalition
 Date: Wed, 5 Jun 1996 15:51:42 +0000
 Subject: Violence in the Tembe territory in Brazil
 Replyto: amazoncoal@igc.apc.org
 Priority: normal
 Sender: amazoncoal@ppp615.igc.org

Forwarded Message Follows

Date: Sat, 1 Jun 1996 10:45:29 0300 (GMT0300)
 From: Dennis Albert Moore <moore@marajo.secom.ufpa.br>

INDIAN HOSTAGES RELEASES; THREAT TO
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(Information compiled from the June 1, 1996 editions of
 the Belem newspapers O Liberal and Diario do Para)

After being held for two days as hostages inside in the Alto Rio Guama Indian Reserve some 77 Tembe, Kaapor, and Timbira Indians along with three employees of the Brazilian Indian agency FUNAI were released by illegal squatters in the town of Vila Livramento (municipality of Garrafao do Norte) in the eastern Amazon state of Para. The release occurred on Friday, May 31, following negotiations between FUNAI, the Brazilian Natural Resource agency IBAMA, the Public Ministry, and Fetagri. There will be a followup meeting on June 5 in Belem with representatives of FUNAI, IBAMA, and the federal land agency INCRA to try to definitively resolve the conflict between the Indians and the squatters which has been going on for more than 20 years. The squatters are demanding title to the area they occupy which is inside the Tembe Indian reserve. The Indians promised they would not return to Vila Livramento and try to take action directly against the colonists. Indian leader Muxi (Sergio) Tembe stated, however, that if a logger was apprehended again inside the reserve the Indians would hold them for some time.

The recent incident was sparked several weeks ago when IBAMA apprehended three trucks of logs that had been illegally cut inside the reserve. The Indians revolted, however, when IBAMA quickly released the trucks and had authorized the release of the logs to the loggers. The Indians sent a mission up to the area to burn some 150 cubic meters of these logs before they were given to the loggers and in the process destroyed other materials related to the colonist squatters. FUNAI indicated it will repay the squatters for the damage and losses caused by the Indians. After being surrounded by the colonists the Indians lay down their bows, arrows, and other weapons. The colonists burned two vehicles that brought the Indians to the area and have

not returned any of the items taken from the indians. Both indians and FUNAI agents were beaten by the colonists in the early stages of the incident and were constantly harassed with death threats throughout the time they were held. Federal, military and civil police were at the site to try to protect the hostages from further violence. The indians have now returned to their villages to decide what action to take next.

One of the key figures behind the colonist activities is apparently Humberto Alencar known in the area as Paraiba. He has provided support for the establishment of many squatter farms in the area. During the hostage situation he apparently encouraged the burning of the FUNAI vehicles and made access for reporters to the indians being held hostage almost impossible.

Given the history of past government actions and inaction in the region, there will be tremendous pressure for the government to give in to the demands of the squatters and grant them title to land inside the reserve. The appropriate solution, however, is for the government to find other land for the colonists outside the reserve. Legalizing the invasion of a fully demarcated indian reserve would be a tremendous setback not only for the Tembe and other indians in the area but would show that the government has no willingness to enforce laws which guarantee land rights for indians in the entire country.

Concerned people are requested to send messages to the President of FUNAI urging him to maintain the integrity of the current Alto Rio Guama reserve boundaries and not give away indian land by permitting the legalization of titles to the squatters.

Send faxes to:
 Julio Gaiger, President
 FUNAI (National Indian Foundation)
 55612268782

Messages can also be so be sent to Brazilian Embassies and Consulates.